

quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 4, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

LOCAL JOURNALISM SUSTAINABILITY ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about the Local Journalism Sustainability Act.

And before the majority leader leaves, I want to thank him for his leadership on such an important piece of legislation. From the very beginning, he understood the fact that diversity in resources is about competition and is a key part of our democracy, and we wouldn't be at the precipice of getting support for local journalism without his help. So I thank him for that.

We originally introduced legislation here in the Senate that Senators WYDEN, KELLY, SCHATZ, MARKEY, MURRAY, KLOBUCHAR, my colleague Senator SCHUMER, MANCHIN, CORTEZ MASTO, SINEMA, BALDWIN, LUJAN, LEAHY, and BLUMENTHAL all supported.

This is important legislation. We hope our House colleagues will take this up this afternoon or tomorrow, as it is included in the Build Back Better program, to make sure that we have the free press that is essential to our democracy and that we have true competition.

Local news is a trusted source of news. Working to high journalistic standards, local newspapers and broadcasters play a critical role in holding our elected officials accountable, shining a spotlight on important news, and challenging the issues of our community to come to light. As one friend of mine said, local news is like hanging a lantern on a problem so that the light shines through.

That is exactly why we want to make sure that we continue to support having this diversity of voices, especially while we see in the online world unfair and uncompetitive practices that we know will be discussed by our colleagues, looked at by the Department of Justice, and certainly legislation proposed about. But in the meantime, we want to keep this diversity of voices working.

We know that since 2005, newspapers have lost more than 40,000 newsroom employees—about 60 percent of their workforce. Most States have lost more than 50 percent of their newsroom workforce. We cannot let regional and community news organizations continue to die as we navigate very challenging information-age business issues. That is why this legislation is so important.

Local journalism is highly trusted in communities around the country. According to a 2019 study from Gallup and Knight Foundation, Americans trust local news over national news by a 2-to-1 margin to “report the news without bias.” Local journalism has developed that trust based on transparency, accuracy, ethical reporting, and shin-

ing a light on important issues, including crime and corruption, and holding public officials accountable.

Local news reporting takes national news stories and translates them into their community news, and America's newspapers and online journalists and radio and television broadcasters are at the heart of this media landscape.

During the pandemic, broadcasters continued to provide essential information to audiences, reporting the news and helping us keep connected on such an important issue.

The Local Journalism Sustainability Act is essential to maintaining that trust, that diversity of voices, and that local perspective. The tax incentives in this bill will help local newspapers and digital-only news journalists and broadcast newsrooms remain financially viable to retain and hire local-based journalists to cover local news stories.

This bill helps incentivize newspapers and broadcasters, including those owned by larger entities, to invest in reporting local news to their relevant communities.

Local and regional minority-owned businesses and outlets also benefit from this provision, which is one of the reasons why the association representing the Black press, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and the National Association of Hispanic Publications also support this legislation.

America's democracy really does depend on ensuring that we have access to information and that we have informed decisions. Doing so also means that we have true competition and information and news that can be verified.

So I am pleased that the House has incorporated this important provision into the Build Back Better reconciliation program. I hope that when this comes to the Senate, our colleagues will join in supporting this, in helping local newspapers, radio and television stations, and digital journalists continue to help us get the news.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT OF 2021

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because it is time to make daylight saving time permanent.

This Sunday, millions of Americans are going to once again roll their clocks back, and in no time, next spring, they will have to roll their

clocks forward. For what reason? I don't know a single person who loves to go through the trouble of figuring out whether their microwave or their oven has the hour right or anyone who looks forward to the Sun setting earlier and earlier every winter.

But beyond convenience, this really is a matter of health and safety. Studies have shown that our switch to standard time can increase rates of seasonal depression, as well as heart problems and the risk of stroke. Researchers also believe that if we made daylight saving time permanent, there would be fewer car accidents and evening robberies thanks to a more regular schedule and an extra hour of Sun.

There are studies that indicate permanent daylight saving time could offset reduced economic activity that we see during standard time and even would lead to greater energy savings.

The people in my home State of Washington know this. That is why we have already passed legislation to switch to permanent daylight saving time. And it is not just Washington; States across the country—Florida and California and Maine and many more—have now passed legislation in their States or resolutions to make daylight saving time year-round. But they are powerless to enact the overwhelming will of the people until they get Federal approval.

To put it simply, Americans want more sunshine and less depression.

That is actually why I am very proud to cosponsor the bipartisan Sunshine Protection Act of 2021, which would extend Daylight Saving Time permanently so Americans can enjoy having sunlight during their most productive hour of the day and never have to worry about changing their clocks again.

Congress has to be part of the solution. Here is a bipartisan issue that we can and we should all get behind.

Now, I am working very hard to support the passage of this bill however possible. But this is something my constituents are truly fed up with, so I am also pressing the Department of Transportation to explore every avenue available to them to at least let States—like mine, whose voters overwhelmingly want permanent Daylight Saving Time—have it.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

Madam President, in this country, when people have demanded changes to daylight saving rules or if it benefits the country, like saving daylight during World War I or the oil embargo in the 1970s, we have simply just changed the rules.

No one wants dark afternoons during the winter or to lose an extra hour of sleep every spring. And I can assure you that every parent that has to deal with a child every time we change the clock and it upsets their routines will be behind this.

For goodness' sake, voters across the country have shown that they support

this; research shows that it is good for public health; and studies actually demonstrate real economic and energy saving benefits.

So, Madam President, I urge that we pass the Sunshine Protection Act and finally make Daylight Saving Time permanent.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

CHINA

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, 50 years ago this coming February, President Nixon made history as the first American President to visit the People's Republic of China. He thought that by inviting China to join what he called "the family of nations," he could incentivize the Chinese Communist Party to liberalize at home and refrain from exporting its brand of communism abroad.

That may sound naive because, as we look back on those 50 years, the changes President Nixon hoped for never came. But he held out hope for change because he had faith in the Chinese people. He was an incredible admirer of their culture and their remarkable history.

And even though these past few decades have proven Nixon wrong about the CCP, he was right to have faith in the people of China. That is why we have to be specific when we talk about what the future holds for our two countries.

The Chinese people and the Chinese Communist Party are not the same thing. In fact, the opposite is true. We have seen countless examples of the Chinese people's bravery, from pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong to 1989's protests in Tiananmen Square.

They were born deserving the same universal rights that we enjoy in the United States: freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and so many more.

They deserve to live in a country that recognizes those rights and understands that true power comes from the consent of the governed, not from the iron fist of the party oligarchy.

Unfortunately, that iron fist is how the CCP has kept its grip on power for so many decades, and they have shown no signs of slowing down under President Xi Jinping.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of President Nixon's groundbreaking trip, we need to reflect on what those 50 years have brought us.

China has not become a democracy. Instead, the Communist Party is weaponizing new technologies to consolidate their rule. Through what President Biden's chief adviser for Asia, Kurt Campbell, has called digital authoritarianism, the CCP can now track the Chinese people's every movement with facial recognition. They have developed a social credit system that ranks the likability and trustworthiness of hundreds of millions of Chinese citizens. Using these and other technologies, the CCP is committing genocide against their own people.

Since April 2017, the CCP has detained over 1 million leaders and other Muslims in specially built internment camps in Xinjiang province. These are Chinese citizens, and their own government is subjecting them to forced sterilization, sexual abuse, forced labor, physical and psychological torment, and political indoctrination.

This is government-sponsored ethnic cleansing, and now China is starting to carry out this kind of state-sponsored racism and genocide outside Xinjiang.

In the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, the CCP is curtailing the use of the Mongolian language by shutting down Mongolian-language social media websites and prohibiting schools from teaching certain classes in Mongolian. The next steps could be similar to what we have seen in Xinjiang.

Sadly, ethnic minorities are not the only people to find themselves on the wrong side of the CCP's many abuses of power. Under President Xi, China has broken its promises to the free people of Hong Kong. Under the pretense of protecting national security, new laws have led to the arrest of thousands of people for doing nothing more than exercising their God-given rights.

Taken together, all these things paint a picture of a Chinese Government that is doubling down on its communist roots and doing whatever it takes to control its people.

None of this should surprise us. This is the same government that forcibly sterilized its citizens as part of its one-child policy, and gunned down thousands of students who were peacefully protesting in Tiananmen Square.

And now they are turning their attention abroad. They are growing more aggressive towards other countries by the day, in ways that comply with international norms and in ways that defy those norms.

In 2013, President Xi formally launched his signature foreign policy effort: the Belt and Road Initiative.

Through this program, China offers lucrative infrastructure investments and economic development deals to smaller and poorer nations. The ultimate goal is to create a global coalition that could challenge the long-standing network of alliances and partnerships that have been built by the United States. Since Belt and Road began, 139 countries have joined, and on every continent China is using it to expand their power.

But here is the catch: If developing countries that welcomed these investments want construction to continue on their new highway system or skyscraper, or if they want access to funding for future projects, they cannot speak out against China's actions. This is why leaders of Muslim-majority countries who have spoken out against these crimes in the past have suddenly fallen silent.

Just look at Turkish President Erdogan, who said China's crimes against the Uighurs are "a genocide, and there is no point in interpreting this otherwise."

He said that in 2009. Today, he won't even talk about it, and he has ordered the police to break up protests about these atrocities in Turkey.

Pakistan's Prime Minister, usually a champion for Muslims around the world, has also fallen under Belt and Road's spell. In June, he refused to answer questions about Xinjiang in an interview with Axios's Jonathan Swan.

China's other strategies for reshaping the rules-based international order are far less subtle. They are using the infrastructure they build to spy on foreign leaders or even take over disputed regions in neighboring countries.

In Ethiopia, the CCP offered to build the new headquarters of the African Union. African Union workers soon discovered that the building's Huawei servers had been shipping their data to Shanghai every day for years and that the building was riddled with Chinese surveillance devices.

This is a perfect example of China's strategy of military-civilian fusion, or the way the CCP forces so-called "private" corporations like Huawei to do their bidding.

Another example hit much closer to home. In 2016, the Chinese company with CCP ties tried to buy a hotel in San Diego. Well, the hotel has a view of Naval Base San Diego, the home port of the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet. The deal was ultimately blocked, but the fact that such a transparent attempt to keep an eye on our forces almost went through is cause for serious concern.

China is also building artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea. Many in this body will recall when, in 2015, President Xi stood next to President Obama and he lied, saying that China does not intend to militarize those islands. He broke his pledge within a year.

Along with this geographic expansion, President Xi is investing in China's military. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, China now spends nearly three times as much on the People's Liberation Army as they did just 10 years ago. They now have the world's largest navy in terms of total number of ships, a title the U.S. held until 2 years ago.

China's navy currently numbers about 355 ships and submarines. They have 2 aircraft carriers and at least 32 destroyers, 48 frigates, and 65 attack submarines. This is not a navy designed to protect a coastline; this is a navy designed to project force on a global scale.

Former Deputy National Security Advisor Matthew Pottinger called what China is doing the "largest peacetime military buildup in the modern era, and maybe one of the largest in history." He said that in response to my questions at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing earlier in June.

And what is this new, more powerful military's highest priority?

The peaceful island of democracy, Taiwan. President Xi has been very clear about his desire to bring Taiwan